

Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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Significant Trends in South Africa

Changing Attitudes

The following editorial by Quintin Whyte appeared in the April issue of *Race Relations News*, published in Johannesburg, South Africa, by the South African Institute on Race Relations.

"While . . . (South Africa) is in the turmoil of the pre-election period, when accusation and counter accusation, promise and counter promise are being hurled through the air from platform, press and radio station, while no one has a thought for anything but the election and wild surmises are made on all sides as to its outcome, it is wise to remember that on the side-lines stand the majority of South Africa's people. They are neutral, silent and perhaps a little amused. It is over their corporate body that the election is being fought. They are withdrawn and watchful. No one has really asked them what they want, what they will accept, and this in fact constitutes the superficial unreality of the election.

"Yet while political parties skate over the surface of reality and all avoid dealing with the fundamental issues, there is a great deal of hard real thinking going on among Europeans who are deeply concerned about the future of the country. In plane and in train, in the busy seaport towns of Durban, Cape Town, East London, Port Elizabeth, along the Reef, in Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Queenstown, Christian thinking people and hard-headed businessmen, are realising as never before that some honest adjustment must be made and that a people cannot be denied forever the right to full development. These men and women are no starry-eyed liberals with their feet in the clouds and their heads in the stratosphere. They are ordinary men and women who are setting themselves the task of thinking out the future. Seventy-five thousand women of the National Council of Women have set themselves this task; industrial and commercial leaders are trying to find a formula; citizens in neighbourhood study circles are trying to face the facts and conversation, wherever you go, turns to question upon question and not to dogmatic assertion.

"This questioning is not a party political factor of any immediate importance; and it will have no decisive influence on the forthcoming election; yet for the future of the country it is vitally important. People are realising that the situation is not static, that to hark back to the past is only to beg the question of the

future, and that we are living in a dynamic country pulsing with forces and energy, industrial, commercial and human which will require progressive thinking if orderly development is to take place.

"Accompanying this thinking goes the realisation of a great ignorance not only of all the facts in the situation, but of the significant people on the other side of the colour line . . . More and more Europeans are expressing the desire to meet with non-Europeans, and to hear from them direct and not via press statements or, second hand, through social workers and educationists and liberals who have these contacts."

A New Political Party

For the first time since the Union of South Africa was formed forty-three years ago a crack has developed in the solid front that the ruling whites, now totaling 2,600,000, have invariably presented toward the non-white majority, now numbering 10,000,000. Hitherto the whites, though bitterly divided into Afrikaner nationalism versus the British element supported by the moderate Afrikaners, have united in applying race segregation, in blocking any extension of political rights to non-whites and even in reducing the voting rights of non-whites, as in 1936, when the Negroes were struck off the white register in Cape Province.

(Recently) the Liberal party was set up by Alan Paton, author of "Cry the Beloved Country," and other whites. They advocate full citizenship rights for all civilized people irrespective of race, color or creed . . .

The Liberal party took its stand on the following principles:

The essential dignity of every human being irrespective of race, color or creed and maintenance of his fundamental rights;

The right of every human being to develop to the fullest extent of which he is capable consistent with the rights of others;

Maintenance of the rule of law;

No person should be debarred from participation in government or other democratic processes of the country by reason only of race, color or creed and political rights based on a common franchise roll should be extended to all suitably qualified persons;

The party will employ only democratic and constitutional means to implement its principles and will oppose all forms of totalitarianism. The membership is open to all persons irrespective of race.

(*New York Times*, May 11).

The People's Choice

Recently, five North Carolina cities and towns elected Negroes to their city councils. In Wilson (population 23,010), in Chapel Hill (population 9,177), in Gastonia (population 23,069) and in the city of Durham (population 71,311) Negroes were elected to office for the first time since Reconstruction Days. Chief significance of these facts was that racial feelings and prejudices traditionally are more concentrated in smaller cities and towns. Greensboro (population 74,389) Negro Councilman William Hampton, first elected in 1951, was re-elected.

Atlantans . . . elected the able, qualified president of Atlanta University, Dr. Rufus Clement, to the city's school board. He, too, is the first Negro to be elected on a citywide basis since Reconstruction Days. The fact that two other Negroes were elected to the City Executive Committee, on a ward basis, went almost unnoticed.

When Atlanta examined the vote tabulations, its wonder grew. Dr. Clement had carried 40 of the 58 precincts . . . He won a majority of the white wards. And of the 18 lost he had failed to carry nine by margins of 22 and less. And of the nine others lost, none had gone against him by a substantial margin. There was simply no getting around the fact that while the valued and able Mayor William B. Hartsfield was winning a fifth term, on the basis of progress and efficiency, aldermen committed to the city's future were winning or leading for run-over contests, Dr. Clement had won the most impressive victory of all.

And, even more important, Atlanta seemed proud, if surprised, at having done the job. Thousands had voted for Dr. Clement because they thought he deserved it, and because they believed the more than 25,000 Negro children in the city's schools deserved representation. But none had expected him to win.

The old die-hard KKK element was angry and bitter. They were especially upset because the skies hadn't fallen, the government hadn't capitulated and the graves had not given up their dead. Things went right along and Atlanta seemed, in general, pleased with itself for having done a fair and honest thing within the orderly framework of democracy. (*The Atlanta Constitution*, May 15).

On the Campus

Integration

A nation-wide campus poll reported . . . by the Associated College Press found 75 per cent of the students who voted were in favor of integration in colleges. In the South 53 per cent favored integration; 35 per cent disapproved, and the rest had no opinion.

The *Daily O'Collegian*, student newspaper at Oklahoma A & M, has come out editorially in favor of admitting Negro undergraduate students to that institution. In Oklahoma City Miss Doresta Jones became the first Negro woman to be admitted to the University of Oklahoma Medical School. There are three male Negro students there.

In Delaware, a committee has urged Governor J. Caleb Boggs to close down the Jim Crow Delaware State College for Negroes, since the University of Delaware is now accepting students of all races. With an enrollment of 79, the cost per student at the College is \$2,600 — as opposed to \$600 at the University. . .

An interracial student conference held at Paine College in Augusta, Ga. . . declared that "racial segregation is un-Christian." Representatives from most of the state's colleges met in the Georgia Student Christian Conference and roomed, ate, discussed and danced together without segregation.

The Lutheran theological school at Columbia, S. C., has declared its readiness to receive students of any race, the Rev. Ervin E. Krebs, director of that denomination's mission division, announced.

At least five other of the church's schools have created scholarships to encourage the enrollment of Negro students, he said. (*The Southern Patriot*, May 1953).

Fraternities

Fraternities at Columbia University (N. Y.) with racial, religious or color bars . . . were given until Oct. 1, 1960 to end biased admission policies or face loss of recognition by the university.

The ultimatum affects all campus organizations except religious groups. It was issued by the Committee on Student Organizations, a student-faculty-administration group at Columbia College, through Nicholas M. McKnight, a member of the body and dean of Columbia College. . .

The committee's action followed a referendum last week in which undergraduates voted 1,011 — 540 in favor of setting a deadline for removal of discriminatory admission clauses in the constitutions or rituals of non-religious student groups. (*New York Amsterdam News*, May 23).

An Amherst College (Mass.) fraternity's by-passing of an "Aryans only" clause in pledging new members this spring was believed . . . to have prompted its suspension from its national body.

No explanation was given by Phi Delta Theta's general council for its suspension of the fraternity's Amherst chap-

ter, but members surmised the acceptance of "non-Aryan" pledges was the reason.

The national body took similar action against the fraternity's Williams College chapter for its acceptance of a Jewish student last February. (*New York Post*, May 27).

A Game with a Priceless By-Product

Another testimonial to the way sports can break down racial barriers was written brilliantly (recently) when the all-Negro Christian Street YMCA team from Philadelphia won the national YMCA basketball crown from High Point's (N. C.) defending champions. . .

There a crowd of white and colored witnessed a great exhibition of basketball in which lanky youngsters from the City of Brotherly Love fought back doggedly to defeat a more experienced local team playing perhaps its greatest game against odds.

It was a bitterly-fought game, especially in those final minutes, but there wasn't an incident of racial feeling to mar tenseness of it all. It was a crowd in which *everyone was interested in the game and the score, and not at all in color of the players.*

(An editorial from the *High Point Enterprise*, March 30, and reprinted in the *National Council Bulletin of the YMCA*, May, 1953. Emphasis supplied.)

Police captains (of New York City) will return to Police Academy classrooms . . . to learn to get along better with people, especially members of minority groups. The back-to-school movement is to be extended until eventually all 19,000 policemen will have had refresher courses in human relations.

Commissioner George P. Monaghan announced . . . the post-graduate course as one of seven steps he would put into effect at once upon recommendation of the Police Advisory Committee on Human Relations, whose chairman is Dr. William Jansen, Superintendent of Schools.

The program is a two-way proposition, it was made clear by Commissioner Monaghan and Dr. Jansen. It will try also to cultivate a better attitude toward the policeman on the beat by those to whom the committee's report referred to as "those segments of the population which do not fully understand the functions of a police officer in a free society." (*New York Times*, May 19).

In the Armed Forces

Racial integration in the Armed Forces takes place more rapidly overseas than in continental United States, according to a report of the Fifth Conference (March 19-20) on Civil Liberties of the National Civil Liberties Clearing House.

In reporting the proceedings it was further stated: "The discussion also indicated that substantial progress has been made in eliminating segregation in the Armed Forces, although the problem is not entirely solved. Highly efficient operating squadrons resulted when the Air

Force put its integration policy into effect. Nevertheless, instances have been reported where Negroes, after satisfactory completion of pre-flight training have not been advanced into actual pilot training with their white classmates. In the Navy, it was pointed out, about 50% of the Negro personnel is still in the Stewards' branch. A few years ago, the Stewards' branch accounted for 90% of Negro enlisted personnel. This branch, however, is still all colored, and recruiting officers have kept white recruits from entering it. Integration has proceeded most rapidly in the Far East and Europe and with less dispatch in the continental United States."

AJC Resolution

In a recent resolution titled: "RESOLUTION ON COMMUNIST ANTI-SEMITISM AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION", The American Jewish Committee, referring to the case against the Moscow doctors stated:

"This case has produced a profound revulsion in world public opinion since the world had learned from the Nazis what an official program of anti-Semitism portends to all religious and ethnic minorities.

"The American Jewish Committee points out that although the fantastic case against the doctors has been dropped, there is no evidence of the abandonment of the discriminatory and repressive policies pursued for many years by the Soviet Union and its satellites against Jews and other religious and ethnic groups. . .

"Recent reports from some of the satellite countries, particularly East Germany, indicate that the equally abhorrent persecution of the Protestant and Catholic religious leadership is actually being intensified.

"Until all groups in the Soviet Union and its satellites are given religious freedom and full protection of their individual human rights, the American Jewish Committee will continue unabated its efforts to expose the striking variance between the Soviet Union's professed opposition to racial and religious discrimination and its actual practices." (*The American Jewish Committee*, May 3).

South of the Border

A heavy increase of wetbacks, illegal Mexican immigrants making their way across the Rio Grande in search of agricultural jobs, has been noted since the beginning of the year.

At the same time thousands of Mexican farmers have been storming offices in provincial cities here in hopes of obtaining legal contracts for temporary work in the United States, according to Mexican reports. . .

Braceros, as contracted laborers are called, and wetbacks have created a huge social, economic and political problem in Mexico. The city of Irapuato, in the agricultural state of Guanajuato, is one of the contracting stations. Swarms of workers from neighboring states have descended

in the city, sleeping in parks and in streets while they wait their turn to apply for jobs. . . .

The flight of these people unfailingly arouses bitter anti-American feeling in Mexico, and those elements anxious to promote trouble do not hesitate to add venom. An old and repeatedly denied rumor that wetbacks are scooped up by the United States Army and shipped off for service to Korea has been cropping up again. The rumor is fed by the acknowledged fact that hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants are never caught by United States authorities and do not return to Mexico. (*The New York Times*, May 12).

New Policy

An excited Hollywood . . . reviewed the unprecedented vote of the Screen Producers Guild . . . to use Negroes "in pictures about American life as they appear in American life today", to use Negroes in "all pictures wherever and whenever possible", and to hire Negro public relations men.

The pledge, made after a meeting with representatives of the Screen Actors Guild, followed an outspoken declaration for these principles by Ronald Reagan, former president of the Guild, and by William Walker, Negro actor, member of the Guild Board of Directors.

Producers were enjoined by Reagan against waiting "for a part specially created for a Negro actor", and urged to cast Negroes as actors . . .

Reagan condemned "thoughtless standardized caricatures of any race" and called for "more honest portrayals of all people" to make better pictures and bring millions more into motion picture theatres.

"Our motion pictures should show the entire world the continual gains Negroes are making in our country", Reagan said, adding that, "This is important in the war against Communist propaganda."

After hearing both Reagan and Walker, the producers met in a closed session and voted unanimously to integrate the Negro into the American screen, and to transmit their recommendation to the Hollywood Coordinating Council, heads and managers of all studios . . .

Walker called the current practice of confining Negro roles to those of butlers, porters, maids, stewards, African savages, etc. a "great imbalance" in the motion picture industry. He added:

"The wrong is not that Negroes are cast in such roles. We want those parts. The wrong is that Negroes are not cast additionally as doctors, lawyers, teachers, insurance men, soldiers, athletes, clerks, etc." (*Los Angeles Tribune*, May 15).

Biology and a Court Decision

"An old saying is, *GOD helps those who HELP THEMSELVES*. At Virginia Beach, we have an excellent example of this. The people of Virginia Beach spent over a MILLION DOLLARS since last June pumping sand onto the beach in front of the Ocean Promenade where the seas had washed it away. And, even though the storms were severe this

Winter, the new sand remained. It must have been God who added considerably more sand, so we now have a most wonderful new beach for you to enjoy this Summer . . .

"I am sure you will like to know that our policy of catering exclusively to Christians prevail(s), and that the Martha Washington is one of the remaining hotels where you may enjoy being with your own kind of people, as nature intended it to be. To more forcefully substantiate this, I reprint below a Court decision rendered last November in Nashville, Tennessee by U. S. Federal Judge Robert N. Wilkin, which illustrates that not only people, but birds and animals like to live exclusively with their own kind."

Then follows the supporting quotation from a Nashville paper under dateline of November 21, 1952:

"A Federal judge said today segregation of the races — where legal rights are unaffected — is not unconstitutional, but is a natural tendency.

"Wilkin's opinion added: 'Nature has produced white birds, black birds, blue birds and red birds, and they do not roost on the same limb or use the same nest. Such recognition and preference for their own kind prevails among other animals.

"It prevails also among all people, among the yellow, black and red-skinned races. The law recognizes these natural and instinctive principles and practices of life. It does not attempt to inhibit them.

"It would be futile to attempt to do so."

"The judge, who served on the Federal bench for the northern district of Ohio in Cleveland for 10 years before retiring in 1949, is a native of New Philadelphia, Ohio. He spends considerable time serving throughout the nation as a special judge." (*Bulletin of the Martha Washington Hotel and Apartments*).

Intergroup Education Newsletter

As part of the new service provided by the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations, it was announced in the March-April issue of the Interracial News Service that the Rev. William H. Vastine would continue to issue the *INTERGROUP EDUCATION NEWSLETTER*.

This publication is a quarterly newsletter directed to religious education people in the denominations and in state, county and city councils of churches. It attempts to present intergroup relations as they affect curriculum, teaching, leadership education and the age groups in the departments of the churches.

There is no subscription assessed. The newsletter is sent out as a service of the intergroup section of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations. For information write to William H. Vastine, 79 East Adams Street, Chicago 3, Illinois.

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.

AMONG POLICEMEN

The Southern Police Institute, conducted each year at the University of Louisville for police officers from all over the South . . . was founded at the University of Louisville in 1951, the product of a wide variety of influences. The Louisville Urban League had a part both in initiating the idea and developing it. . . .

The institute offers three courses per year, each 12 weeks long. Twenty-five students are enrolled for each course. Instructors are obtained from Chicago, Baltimore, New York, Cincinnati, Indianapolis — wherever the best instructors are to be found, according to Director (David A.) McCandless. . . . (*The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.*, March 14).

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Because of the apparent indifference of the officials of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department toward the loyal and qualified Negro members of the force when promotions are considered, the morale of many colored officers is at a low ebb. . . .

Chief complaint among the men stems from the prejudice that openly exists toward colored officers by many of their superiors (on the force) and the inability to do anything about it. . . .

Although the percentage of crime in the midtown area is high because of the poor housing, job discrimination and other social ills that befall the Negro, the department has not seen fit to place a Negro captain or lieutenant in charge of either the Deer, Lucas or Carr street districts.

St. Louis has never had a Negro captain and at present, there is only one colored lieutenant, despite the large number of qualified Negro officers on the force. (*St. Louis Argus*, March 27).

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A Negro policeman who rose to be a lieutenant on the Kansas City force resigned in protest when he found that his duties as lieutenant were the same as those he had performed as a sergeant — charge of a detail of twelve officers, all Negroes. Lieutenant Leon Jordan, a veteran of ten years on the force, said in his letter of resignation that he wanted "to be considered as an individual and advanced according to my proven ability, not given an empty title in lieu of actual duty for which I am qualified." (*NAIRO Reporter*, February).

Rabbi Lectures at Protestant Seminary

Dr. Robert Gordis, Associate Professor of Biblical Exegesis at the Jewish Theological Seminary, has been named a lecturer in the Old Testament at Union Theological Seminary for the spring term in 1954.

Dr. Gordis, it is believed, will be the first Jewish theologian to lecture on the Bible at the Protestant seminary. (*New York Times*, April 10).

Summer Institutes and Workshops

A number of summer conferences which focus attention upon the multiple aspects of research and social action in the area of racial and cultural relations are being planned. Here are several announcements for the information of our readers:

Interdenominational Institutes on Racial and Cultural Relations

Place: Lincoln Seminary, Lincoln University, Pa.

Dates: July 20-24

Place: Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo.

Dates: August 3-7

Place: Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Ore.

Dates: July 13-17

For information on all three institutes, write to: J. OSCAR LEE, Department of Racial and Cultural Relations, National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Institutes seek to serve the practical needs of the churches as they move toward the realization of non-segregated churches in non-segregated communities.

Tenth Annual Institute of Race Relations

Place: Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

Dates: June 29 - July 11

For information write to: ROBERT W. SWEET, Race Relations Department, American Missionary Association, Fisk University, Nashville 8, Tenn.

Human Relations Workshop

Place: State University of New York, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dates: July 5-18

For information write to: PROF. ANNA P. BURRELL, Human Relations Workshop, State University of New York, College of Teachers, Buffalo 22, N. Y.

Summer Interracial Workshop

Place: Washington, D. C.

Date: July, 1953

For information write to: INTERRACIAL WORKSHOP, 513 West 166th St., New York 32, N. Y.

Workshop in Intergroup Education

Place: Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

Dates: June 29 - August 8

For information write to: THE REGISTRAR, Catholic University of America, Washington 17, D. C.

Briefly

For several weeks the South has been extremely anxious over the school segregation issue . . .

In some states the future of the public school systems, as such, would seem in doubt. If segregated schools are ruled out, no one really can pretend to know the consequences. Obviously the result would not be the same in all 17 segregation states.

Yet, even amid the uncertainty which exists, new school construction and some comprehensive long-range school planning are proceeding at an unprecedented pace in much of the South. There is also much official fact-finding as well as heart-searching. (*Christian Science Monitor*, April 25).

Thousands of women from all over the U. S. are expected to attend the Sixth National Assembly of United Church Women in Atlantic City's Convention Hall being held October 5-8. It is the first such national gathering since the United Church Women became a general department of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. two years ago . . .

A report on the status of women in American churches is one of a number of major issues the church women will consider during the Assembly . . .

Other major topics which will be discussed at the Assembly include the church women's program for "Next Steps in Race Relations"; the United Nations, which the church women support as "next to the churches, the world's best instrument for peace"; and freedom of thought in areas such as churches, schools, and mass communications. (*News, National Council of Churches*, April 10).

A year ago Governor John D. Lodge (Connecticut) proclaimed the second week of May to be observed as "Civil Rights Week." This year several organizations including the Anti-Defamation League, the Bridgeport Committee on Civil Rights and the Connecticut Jewish Community Relations Council . . . requested that a similar proclamation be

issued this year, naming the week of May 10th through the 16th "Civil Rights Week." . . .

. . . Schools, churches, libraries and community organizations used various means of commemorating this week. Posters and pamphlets were supplied by the Connecticut Commission on Civil Rights . . . (*Spotlight on Civil Rights*, Vol. 1, No. 5, May 1953).

Canadian FEP

Canada has succeeded in doing for its minorities what the U. S. government has been unable to do.

The Canadian parliament . . . (recently) passed a bill to prevent racial, religious or nationality discrimination in regard to employment and membership in trade unions.

The new law applies to such industries as transportation and communication over which the federal government has control.

Since the Negro population in Canada is relatively small, the law will be of primary benefit to the Jewish element, which strongly supported the measure in parliament. (*Chicago Defender*, May 23).

A Study Report

Segregation in Interstate Railway Coach Travel is a ninety-one paged documentation of the racial practices of the Major Class I Railways serving southern areas; a first-hand study by investigators covering 28,000 travel miles.

It describes and analyzes current practices resulting in differential availability of services and facilities to coach passengers according to race, and establishes the issue of interstate coach segregation within the framework of both national concern involving public policy and strategic importance to intergroup relations.

Copies may be procured from the Race Relations Department, American Missionary Association, Fisk University, Nashville 8, Tennessee. Price: Seventy-five cents per copy.

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HISTORY IS MADE UP
LARGELY OF A RECORD
OF MAN'S INTOLERANCE
TO MAN.

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